



the **ARCHIBULL** PRIZE

# CAREER SNAPSHOT

Though she lives in town with Herb the rabbit, Jessica Fearnley divides her time between her family's farm, with horses and cows, and her work at the Orange Agricultural Institute as a horticultural development officer; as she expands her agricultural wings and knowledge.

Jessica's career pathway has been one of exploration as she took every opportunity to learn. She studied agriculture at high school and was involved with the local show before moving to Armidale to study rural science at the University of New England, and it was at university where she threw herself into a multitude of work experience roles. She worked with government researchers, farming advocacy and education groups and software development companies. She participated in agricultural tours of Cambodia and Laos, competed in meat judging competitions and was an active member of university clubs and groups. "All of my study and work experience have led me to my current role, which focusses on developing the horticultural industry to help growers and associated people remain competitive in markets, as well as to supply Australians with quality fruit."

Today Jessica works with a variety of stakeholders and growers to develop and deliver research projects. Her day may include checking project sites with technical staff (and sampling the apple varieties for a morning snack) or joining a teleconference to organise workshops and field days. She may discuss production issues with growers or market plans with exporters, or lead delegations through the apple and cherry orchards of Orange. On other days she may be on a plane, flying to conferences around Australia.

At home again at the end of the day, as she feeds cows with her father, Jessica contemplates the future. "After university I won a Crawford Fund International Student Award and travelled to Cambodia to look at integrated disease and pest management. I gained a real appreciation for international agriculture and believe this may be a space I will work with in the future."

This is Jessica's career in agriculture. What will yours be?



## JESSICA FEARNLEY

JESSICA FEARNLEY WORKS AS A DEVELOPMENT OFFICER FOR TEMPERATE FRUITS WITH THE NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND KNOWS A CAREER IN AGRICULTURE CAN TAKE HER ANYWHERE.

